

# **GS 1181: I love that show!**

MW 12:00-12:50, L316

Fall 2020

## **Instructor: Dr. Erica Bailey**

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Office: Library K306

Office Hours:

In person: MW 1:00 – 2:00, T 12:15 – 1:30

Virtual: MTW 9:00 – 11:00

We've all heard someone mention what they've been watching on Netflix and found ourselves saying "I love that show!" Why are we drawn to some shows and not others? This course will help you to answer that question. Specifically, we will explore how our selection of media is influenced by psychological factors such as mood, emotion, and personality traits. We will also examine how our selection and interpretation of media is impacted by social situations and emerging technologies such as co-viewers, mobile devices, time shifting devices, and social media. As heavy media consumers, media literacy is important. One way we can improve our media literacy is by understanding the psychological processes at work when consuming media. This course will provide an overview of major media effects and media selection theories with a focus on entertainment media.

### **Course Objectives**

My overarching goals in this course are to further your knowledge and understanding of the role media play in our lives and how media influences its consumers, as well as help you develop greater media literacy skills. In doing that, you should leave this course able to:

- Evaluate and discuss ethical matters regarding media content
- Identify psychological processes associated with media effects
- Compare and contrast media theories
- Critically think about what types of effects new media might introduce

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication

CT1: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue

PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

### **Evaluation**

Grades are determined on a straight percentage scale based on the number of points earned out of a maximum of 1,000 points.

There will be no further rounding or curving of grades.

Final grades are calculated as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; and so forth...

**Grading Distribution:**

Information Literacy quizzes: 20%

Selfie scavenger hunt: 10%

Written Summaries: 40% (4 at 10% each)

In Class Assignments: 20%

Participation/Attendance/Preparedness: 10%

**Information Literacy Quizzes:** To be successful in college, you will need to know where to find scholarly sources, how to critically evaluate sources, understand and avoid plagiarism, and appropriately cite research. A short collection of videos on Blackboard will walk you through these topics. After each video, you'll take a short quiz about the information you just watched.

**Selfie Scavenger Hunt:** To get the most out of your experience at ASU, you need to know where the some essential buildings and offices are located. This scavenger hunt will familiarize you with some of the services offered to students and how to locate them.

**Written Summaries:** You will write 4 summaries on topics that will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

**In-Class Assignments:** In each class session, you will be asked to reflect on the lecture, a television show, or other activity from the day. These in class assignments are meant to facilitate discussion among classmates.

**Participation/Attendance/Preparedness:** This is a small class, and therefore conducive to meaningful conversations and connection. It is expected that you contribute to the class discussion daily. As mere physical presence does not constitute engagement, simply attending class without being prepared and engaged will not earn you full credit.

### General Conduct

**Attendance:** Regular attendance on your assigned day is expected in this course. If you are feeling ill, stay home. If you are not attending class in person, you are expected to watch the lecture for that day, which will be posted on Blackboard.

**Missed/Late Work:** Deadlines for assignments are firm.

**Readings** must be completed *by the day they are assigned* on the course schedule. Be sure to read the book and take notes while reading. Lectures and Power Points are intended to *complement* (not duplicate) that information.

**Changes** to the schedule may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced.

**Face Coverings:** As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom

immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**Classroom Civility:** People and ideas must be treated with respect. Please avoid disruptive behavior that makes it difficult to accomplish our mutual objectives. **All cell phones and other noisy devices should be turned off before entering the classroom and headphones/earbuds should be removed.** Distracting behaviors, particularly during presentation days (i.e., working on laptops, doing homework or talking) will result in a reduction of points on your own presentation. Excessive phone use will result in dismissal from class and/or being counted absent for the day. If you are expecting an important call or message please notify me before class. If you are late on presentation days, wait outside until the first presentation is completed.

**Freedom of Expression:** Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with me. However, it is possible to disagree without being disrespectful—sneering, name-calling, questioning motives, and representing positions unfairly aren't good ways to disagree, even if in everyday life and in politics they are sometimes effective. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

**Plagiarism** is a serious offense in this course. Using the words and ideas of others is borrowing something from those individuals. It is always necessary to identify the original source of supporting information; you must cite the source of any material, quoted or paraphrased, used in your presentation. The absence of this documentation constitutes **plagiarism** – a serious academic and professional offense. Proper documentation requires a bibliography of any outside texts you have consulted including both traditional sources and on-line sources.

Your responsibility as a speaker is to distinguish between what are *your* thoughts and ideas and what is not, and to credit those who have contributed to your presentation. Putting your name on a piece of work indicates that the work is *yours* and that the praise or criticism is due to *you* and no one else. Putting your name on a piece of work in which any part is not yours, is **plagiarism** – unless the borrowed thought or wording is clearly marked, and the work is fully identified. Keep in mind that plagiarism is a form of theft. Taking words, phrasing, or sentence structure, or any other element of another person's ideas, and using them as if they were your own, is stealing. Simply paraphrasing the work of another without acknowledging the information source is also plagiarism. Merely restating another individual's ideas in different words does not make the ideas yours. ALL presentations are to be your original work. **Using speeches or presentations from previous semesters or other classes is still considered plagiarism. Unauthorized collaboration on presentations (with a student in your section or another student in a different section) is not allowed without prior approval from your instructor.**

If you are caught being dishonest, you will be given an "F" for the assignment and/or the course depending on the severity of the offense.

Please understand I do not tolerate plagiarism and will fail you for it, even if your plagiarism is unintentional. These standards may seem subtle, so feel free to ask if you have questions or concerns. Please see full Honor Code Policy at [http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf)

**Academic Advising:** The College of Arts and Humanities and the Department of Communication and Mass Media require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Communication and Mass Media majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 325-942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU's Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at 325-942-2710.

**The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students." In other words, I cannot and will not speak to your parents about details of your grades and progress in this course without your written consent.

**The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 325-942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly and creative activity in an open, honest and responsible manner, free from fraud and deception, and is an educational objective of the College of Communications and the University. Cheating – including plagiarism, falsification of research data, using the same assignment for more than one class, turning in someone else's work, or passively allowing others to copy your work – will result in academic penalties at the discretion of the instructor. In serious cases, it could also result in suspension or dismissal from the University or in the assignment of an "XF" grade (failed for academic dishonesty).

As students studying communications, you should understand and avoid plagiarism (presenting the work of others as your own.) A discussion of plagiarism, with examples, can be found at <http://tlt.psu.edu/plagiarism/student-tutorial/>.

The rules and policies regarding academic integrity should be reviewed by every student, and can be found online at: [www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20](http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies/47-00.html#49-20), and in the College of Communications document, "Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures." Any student with a question about academic integrity or plagiarism is strongly encouraged to discuss it with his or her instructor.

**Note to Students with Disabilities:** Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services, ODS located in room 116 Boucke Building at 814-863-1807(V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit its website at [www.equity.psu.edu/ods/](http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/). Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable academic adjustments.

**Title IX at Angelo State University:**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.  
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022 michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).